

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE INSTALLATION GUIDELINES**

**FIELD BORDER**

**(ft.)  
CODE 386**

**GUIDELINES APPLICABLE FOR ALL PURPOSES**

Criteria for establishment (plant suitability, seedbed preparation, seeding depth, weed control, seeding rate, etc.) of vegetation will be consistent with South Dakota Range Technical Note No. 4. The species suitability and composition (minimum of two species) and seeding rate will be selected from Tables 2, 3, or 4. Selections should be initiated with Table 4.

Do not mix warm and cool season grasses for hayland use. Legumes can be seeded with cool season grasses if both the legume and the grass are suited to the site. Do not mix native and introduced grasses unless the phenology, morphology, and seedling vigor of selected species are similar.

No plants which are declared to be statewide or local noxious weeds shall be allowed to be established in the field border. The land user shall take reasonable measures to control or eradicate any noxious weeds in the field border.

Field Borders will be protected from destructive grazing.

**ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES TO REDUCE EROSION FROM WIND AND WATER**

Grasses or grass-legume mixtures will be selected for erosion control. Sod forming species will be included in all seeding mixtures. On slopes over 6 percent, 75 percent of the seed (PLS basis) shall be sod forming species.

Field borders will be a minimum of 20 feet or be of sufficient width to accommodate turning farm equipment without additional end rows.

Renovate field borders as needed to keep ground cover above 65 percent. Renovation shall only include the immediate seedbed preparation and reseeding.

**ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES TO PROVIDE WILDLIFE FOOD AND COVER**

Use permanent grasses, grass-legume mixtures, or woody shrubs adapted to the site. When field borders are designed to enhance wildlife habitat, select species that provide food and/or cover for the targeted wildlife species identified in a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.

When designed for this purpose the minimum strip width shall be 25 feet or the width identified in a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.

Mowing, harvest, and weed control activities within the field border will be scheduled to accommodate reproduction and other requirements of the target wildlife species identified in a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.

The percent of legumes in the mixture will not exceed 75 percent (PLS basis) of each amount shown in Table 2 as needed for full seeding. Hayland type alfalfa should be used.